

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method of providing sub-channels for transmitting information in a telecommunications network comprising several stations, wherein the method comprises:

normally time-multiplexing a data information sub-channel into a first group of time slots and a speech information sub-channel into a second group of time slots along with providing at least one general services and synchronization sub-channel time slot to form a frame including the at least one designated general services and synchronization sub-channel time slot in a sequential arrangement with members ~~from~~ of the first and second groups; and

providing a first part of the information in each sub-channel time slot as configured to provide synchronization information between stations of the network.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing a link between at least two stations of the network using the general services and synchronization sub-channel; and

using the link to perform tasks.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein the tasks include transmitting one of a request for priority transmission formulated by a station, a warning reported by a station, a "flash" message, a request for repetition of a message, commands sent out by a master station, and information regarding reconfiguration of the network.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

sending a synchronization signal from a master station of the network on the general services and synchronization sub-channel.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting information using a sub-channel for information that would normally be transmitted on another sub-channel.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

implementing an anti-collision procedure when there are several simultaneous or almost simultaneous requests for use of the data information or speech information sub-channel.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the anti-collision process comprises:

assigning a random number to each requesting station;
the station with the lowest number obtaining a right to transmit first; and
other stations obtaining a right to in an order corresponding to a rising order of the random numbers that have been assigned to them.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 7 further comprising:
governing the anti-collision process by a rotating rule of priority.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 9, further comprising:
making simultaneous use of both the data information sub-channel and the speech
information sub-channel by a first station; and
the first station releasing a required sub-channel when another station requires use of
the required sub-channel.

Claim 11 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein a synchronization pattern is
included at a first part of the at least one general services and synchronization sub-channel
time slot, and a second part of the at least one general services and synchronization sub-
channel time slot, following the first part, includes information other than synchronization
information.